

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in this case. Claim 1-20 remain rejected.

The Affidavit filed on 11/02/04 under 37 CFR 1.131 has been held by the Examiner to be ineffective to overcome the Hickman et al reference. The Affidavit filed on 11/02/04 is hereby withdrawn, without prejudice.

Claims 1-20 remain rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hickman et al (US Patent No. 6,523,036). The rejection of claims 1-20, as amended, is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite that the first, abstract, and second formats are "database" formats, as opposed to other formats, such as an object format. No new matter is added in claims 1 and 11 and support for the amendments is found throughout the specification and drawings.

Claim 11 has been further amended to correct an informality.

The amendments to the claims are deemed to distinguish over the Hickman et al reference for the following reasons:

1) The conversion described in Hickman et al is from an XML object to a first format, not from an abstract database format to a second database format as now claimed. The "XML" referred to at column 20 of Hickman et al is an "XML object" (column 20, line 32), and not a database as claimed.

2) The XML object is not an abstract database format, as asserted by the Examiner. The abstract database format is a representation of a database, and not an XML object.

3) The transformation taught in Hickman et al is to the "first database format" only, hence only two database formats are taught. In contrast, claims 1 and 11

claim three separate database formats including a first database format, an abstract database format, which is a representation of the first database format, and a second database format.

For the above reasons, claims 1 and 11 are deemed to be allowable over the Hickman et al reference as containing at least one element not taught in the cited reference. Claims 1 and 11 are therefore deemed to be allowable under 35 USC 102(e).

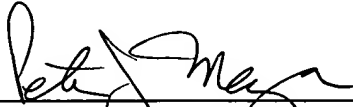
Claims 2-10 and 12-20 are deemed to be allowable as being dependent upon allowable base claims 1 and 11, respectively.

All claims are deemed to be allowable and the case is deemed to be in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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